



**INTERNATIONAL
BROTHERHOOD
OF ELECTRICAL
WORKERS®**

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EDWIN D. HILL
International President

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November 17, 2011

VIA E-MAIL

Senator Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee
224 Dirksen Building
Washington, DC 20510

Congressman Lamar Smith
Chairman
House Judiciary Committee
2138 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Senate Judiciary Committee
224 Dirksen Building
Washington, DC 20510

Congressman John Conyers, Jr.
Ranking Member
House Judiciary Committee
2138 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

On behalf of the approximately 725,000 members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), I write to express the IBEW's support of S. 968, the PROTECT IP Act of 2011 and H.R. 3261, the Stop Online Piracy Act. Both of these Acts would retain and create jobs for IBEW members.

The illegal sale or display of counterfeit goods or copyrighted materials costs the United States numerous jobs and billions of dollars a year. Individuals working in many industries feel the effects of these illegal actions - from the television and music industries to the manufacturing and pharmaceutical industries, the problem is widespread.

The websites used to perpetrate these crimes are located outside of the United States and are designed to convince consumers they are purchasing brand-name goods or legitimate items. Because the websites are located outside of the United States, they are beyond the reach of the United States law enforcement. The Senate and House Acts will give the United States government a tool with which it can protect American workers by cracking down on these foreign websites.

The IBEW commends you for introducing and supporting S. 968 and H.R. 3261 which protect American jobs.

Sincerely yours,

Edwin D. Hill
International President

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Copy to all Members of the United States Congress